

AUAR [Alternative Urban Areawide Review]

An AUAR is a review of alternative development scenarios for an entire geographic area rather than for a specific project or proposal. (An AUAR substitutes for an EAW when “several different projects in the same area will require preparation of an EAW, or if an RGU* has concerns about overall development in an area where some projects require review and others do not”).

*RGU = Responsible Governmental Unit – the City of Saint Paul

Major Components Analyzed by an AUAR for each development scenario:

1. Fish, wildlife, & ecologically sensitive resources
2. Physical impacts on water resources
3. Water Use
4. Water-related Land Use Management Districts
5. Erosion & sedimentation
6. Stormwater runoff
7. Wastewater Systems
8. Geologic hazards and soil conditions
9. Solid wastes; hazardous wastes; storage tanks
10. Traffic
11. Vehicle-related air emissions
12. Sensitive resources: archeological, historic, architectural; designated parks, rec. areas, trails; scenic views
13. Compatibility with Regional, Municipal and Neighborhood Plans
14. Impact on infrastructure and public services
15. Cumulative impacts
16. Other environmental impacts

Mitigation Plan

The final AUAR document must include a mitigation plan. It takes on a nature of a commitment by the RGU to prevent potentially significant impacts from occurring from specific projects. It is beyond a list of ways to reduce impacts—it must include info about how the mitigation will be applied and assurance that it will. The RGU’s final action on the AUAR must specifically adopt the mitigation plan.

Note: For more information on AUARs, see *EAW Guidelines* (www.mnplan.state.mn.us) and the *Recommended Content and Format AUAR Documents*